



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE  
Modern Language Association of America

---

VOL. VI.

1891.

No. 1.

---

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME.\***

BY LANDON C. GARLAND, A. M., LL. D.,  
CHANCELLOR OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TENN.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION: I have been gratified to notice of late the frequency with which Associations and Societies, organized and operating chiefly in the North, have been holding their sessions in the South. Within the last two years we have had in Nashville, The National Educational Association; The Woman's Christian Temperance Union; The Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline; and now the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

If we could eliminate from the masses of our people the discordant and divellent forces which are being constantly excited by unpatriotic and selfish politicians, these gatherings of educated and refined leading men and women from widely separated portions of the country, would soon break down the prejudices and soften the asperities of temper which were left us as the *sequelæ* of an internecine war. It is because people of different sections do not know each other—do not understand each other, that they do not appreciate each other as they deserve, and live in greater harmony than they do.

---

\* Delivered before the Eighth Annual Convention of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, held at Nashville, Tenn., December, 1890.

Every assemblage, therefore, like the present ought to be greeted as a public benefaction, and welcomed in whatsoever part of the country it may meet. It is in this broad and national view of the good you may accomplish, that I tender to you a heartfelt welcome to the State of Tennessee; to the city of Nashville, and particularly to the grounds and halls of Vanderbilt University, where provision has been made for conducting the proceedings of your Association. We are glad to see you here, glad of the opportunity of forming your acquaintance and offering to you every token of our kindest consideration. We shall be glad to consult your wishes in all matters, and to throw every possible facility in the way of promoting the successful accomplishment of the purposes for which you are assembled.

Meeting as you do in the walls of an institution of learning where the modern languages constitute a considerable part of every curriculum leading to either a Baccalaureate or a Doctorate Degree, you would naturally expect to find in all connected with it, a deep interest in the proceedings of your Association. We shall be in hearty sympathy with all measures having for their object the enlargement and more thorough study of the modern languages. A knowledge of these languages to an extent to read them and to make them subservient to the purposes of research, has been, until recent years, the utmost demand of the American scholar. Fifty years ago, there were many of our colleges which made no provision for their study at all; and a knowledge to the extent just stated, had to be acquired under private instructors, who for the most part were but poorly qualified for their work. And in those colleges which taught these languages, a much lower degree of importance was attached to them than to the Latin and Greek. But things are changed. Our own language is now studied to an extent and manner hitherto unknown in our colleges; and the demand of a knowledge of the German and French as a medium

of social and commercial intercourse is almost universal. This is a natural consequence of the wonderful increased facilities of transportation and travel both by land and sea, whereby distant nations may be said to have been brought into immediate neighborhood with each other. London and Paris are as near to Nashville to-day as was the city of Washington fifty years ago: and there are a thousand citizens of the United States now visiting Europe, to where there was one at the period named. Besides this, we have on our southern border a Spanish speaking people, over whose territory we are stretching out our railroads, and with whom we are daily enlarging our commercial relations, and over whose territory we are extending our missionary operations. Under this state of things, no institution can afford to exclude the study of the modern languages, nor including them, can afford to study them superficially.

As to this University, you probably would like to know what it is doing for the advancement of the study of modern languages. At its outset, its course of studies was arranged with the view of giving greater attention to those languages than they had received in any of our Southern colleges, particularly to the English Language. In establishing a school of modern languages, we were compelled, from the want of funds, to crowd into it the study of the three languages, English, German and French. But we are so fortunate in obtaining as the head of that school, the delegate of this Association from South Carolina, a scholar of such ripeness, and experience, and energy; and of such success in inspiring his pupils with enthusiasm, that we suffered but little from the over-crowded work of the school. With the assistance of a single tutor the work was well done,—done in a manner to give reputation to the University.

About nine years ago, our endowment having been in the meanwhile enlarged, the English was separated from the German and French, and made an independent school of its own; its course of study in that language from time to time was

enlarged until it occupies three lectures per week throughout three years, in the Collegiate Course; and furthermore, six lectures per week for three years in the University Course leading to doctorate degrees. I ought to state, that we have a University Course, open only to the graduates of this or other universities, leading to the doctorate degrees, in which the modes of instruction are those adopted by the best European Universities, and largely in *seminary*; and throughout this higher course, particular attention is paid to the Philology and Literature of the modern languages, not only as helps to other studies, but for their own sakes. And here I will remark, that no degrees are given in this University *pro honoris causa*. All must be won by meritorious work. Two years ago the remaining studies in the School of Modern Languages were arranged into two groups, the one designated the "Romance Languages" and the other the "Teutonic Languages," each directed by its own Professor. The object of this division was to elevate the study of those languages from a *means* to an *end*, that end being the attainment of a higher order of mental development and culture. The modern languages are now studied in this University as Latin, Greek and Mathematics are studied, for the purpose of mental discipline. They are assigned an equal portion of time with those, and we are endeavoring to have them introduced into our training schools.

The Spanish, although it belongs to the "Romance Languages," has not been assigned to a prominent place in our curriculum, but there is a demand upon our Theological Department for Spanish speaking ministers to carry on our missionary operations in Mexico. This demand has been met by instruction in that language, given by a highly cultivated native Mexican, who graduated first in his own country and then studied for two years at the Episcopal Theological School, of Cambridge, Mass., where he received the B. D. degree and is now engaged as translator of English books into the Spanish language, by the Southern Methodist Publishing House, in Nashville.

I have thus in few words set before you imperfectly the work we are doing in this University, german to the objects of your Association. It would not be proper to speak as particularly of other schools of the Literary and Scientific Department. But as this University is of very recent date—in the midst of its fifteenth year of operation, I may be permitted to say : besides its Literary and Scientific Department, with its ten schools, there are six other departments for professional education, all in successful operation, with about sixty Professors and Instructors and six hundred and twenty students.

You may probably wish to know by what means, in so short a time we have been enabled to provide such spacious grounds and such numerous and commodious buildings, and to effect an organization of the University on so large a scale as that I have just intimated—a scale much beyond that of any Institution in the Southern States. It is an old saying—“That it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good :” and it finds a striking illustration in the existence of this University, for it is an outcome of the late civil war.

The patriotism of Commodore Vanderbilt was as broad as his country's domain. He did not share those fanatical sentiments and sectional strifes which precipitated the nation into war. But he was an ardent Unionist, and while the conflict was waged, he not only gave to it the weight of his influence, in order to maintain the integrity of the Union, but he gave freely of his money to the vigorous prosecution of the war. Out of his own means he built and equipped a war vessel, at a cost of eight hundred thousand dollars, which he gave to the naval department of the government. But the moment war was ended by surrender of Lee to Grant, it was ended as to Commodore Vanderbilt. With him, the South was at once an integral part of the nation. He had no sympathy with the measures that immediately followed the war and that seemed to have been conceived in hatred and executed in revenge against the South, for having entered into

a conflict for the maintenance of the inalienable right of self-government. And when about eight years after the war, he became by virtue of his domestic relations, acquainted with the fact that a numerous and influential christian people in the Southern States were struggling in their poverty to raise money for the founding of a University upon a larger scale than any existing in the South, he came forward unsolicited, and made a donation to it of five hundred thousand dollars.

In his letter of donation he shows his patriotic purpose in these words :

"And now that I have fulfilled my undertaking in this matter, if it shall through its influence contribute even in the smallest degree to strengthen the ties which should exist between all geographical sections of our common country, I shall feel that it has accomplished one of the objects that led me to take an interest in it."

Mr. Vanderbilt watched with solicitude the progress of the University, furnishing additional funds as its growth demanded. And after his death the means of enlarging the operations of the University and increasing its usefulness, were promptly and liberally supplied by his son William. Since the death of the latter, the stream of liberality has been kept flowing by the Commodore's grandson, Cornelius, who has recently made a donation for increasing the Library and for erecting and furnishing a commodious Mechanical Hall. From the bounty of our patrons we have received about a million and a-half of dollars ; of which about six hundred thousand dollars have been expended on the grounds and buildings, apparatus, etc., and the balance of nine hundred thousand dollars constitute the endowment of the Institution, the interest on which, only, can be used for the support of the operations of the University, upon their present scale.

The character of an institution of learning ought to be determined by the character of the men it returns to society. To this test we gladly submit our claims to public favor. If you could follow our graduates, whither they have gone—into the sanctuaries of religion ; into the halls of legislation ; into the

courts of justice ; into the chambers of the sick ; along the routes of railroad construction ; into the shops of industry ; into the academies and colleges, where they have obtained positions as Principals and Professors, we would for our character be willing to abide the judgment you would pass upon them.

The Genius and Literature of the modern languages have never constituted a special part of my studies. I have used them only for gathering information relative to the subjects of my professional research. I did not, therefore, feel myself competent to enlighten your Association, by the discussion on this occasion of any theme likely to come before you for consideration. I have thus been thrown back, of necessity, upon the environments of this meeting, for material likely to afford you any information or interest. This is my apology, if apology is necessary, for saying so much, as I have done, about Vanderbilt University. And now I close only bidding you again, "Welcome, thrice welcome," to our sunny South, and to all we can contribute to make your meeting profitable and agreeable.